skills. The Rehabilitation Council of India under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment recognizes courses that train special educators. The NCERT and the C.B.S.E., I.C.S.E. and some State Boards give exemptions in languages and certain subjects to assist these children. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme also has, as its aims, attention to these children in regular schools.

Mental health schemes

2689. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revamp mental health schemes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to revamp National Mental Health Programme in the backward States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to re-strategise the National Mental Health Programme during Eleventh Plan to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover the areas of suicide prevention stress management, School Mental Health etc. and also to create infrastructure for production of quality manpower/ training of personnel etc., for effective delivery of mental health services.

Equal status to pharmacists

2690. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of pharmacists are treated as gazetted posts in certain States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that staff nurses and doctors are given the same status and facilities equally throughout the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the scales of pharmacists are not equal and identical even in the Central Government organisation; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove this anamoly and provide equal status to all the pharmacists and other paramedical staff throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not maintain data of pharmacists posted in states. However entry grade scale of pharmacists is Rs.4500-7000/- in the Central Government Hospitals, which is a group 'C' Non-Gazetted post.